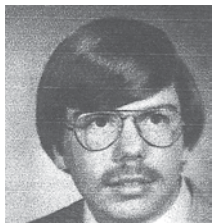




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AGAWAM

ADVERTISER NEWS

A TURLEY PUBLICATION | www.turley.com

February 18, 2021 | Vol. 42, No. 51 | \$1.00

www.agawamadvertisernews.turley.com

Rotary club distributes masks to the community



By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – The Agawam Rotary Club distributed 10,000 medical face masks to different services of the town last week, this is in addition to the 5,000 face masks they provided in October last year.

President of the Rotary Club John Barber said that there are no plans of further distribution, but the same was

true after they provided masks in October. “The masks were provided to us by District 7890 of Rotary International. The district is comprised of northern and western Connecticut and western Massachusetts,” Barber said. “That said, when the District offered masks to the clubs last fall, it was described to be a ‘one time’ offering. The in late December, we were notified that additional masks would be available.”

MASKS | page 2

Rotary Club President John Barber presents Mayor William Sapelli with boxes of masks for town use. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Data cap leads to Fiber Task Force creation

By Shelby Macri
smacri@turley.com

AGAWAM – A Municipal Fiber Task Force was recently announced by Mayor William Sapelli, its purpose is to study the internet network throughout the town of Agawam.

While announcing the task force Sapelli explained that all options will be explored while looking at the Broadband within town. This includes a town owned and managed network or partnering with a third party in order to establish a new network for Agawam. This reasoning comes from the recently announced monthly cap on internet bills for residents through Comcast.

“Comcast’s announcement has created a tremendous amount of anxiety in Town and people are rightfully concerned with exceeding the monthly cap and facing higher internet bills,” Sapelli said in a recent press release.

One of the primary considerations of the task force will be the costs that are associated with any changes or potential impacts to consumers. Though costs may flux, the same is true with the announcement that subscribers who exceed a data limit will be charged additional fees for the overages beginning in late summer this year. The task force will review this issue and look into

any steps needed for Agawam to partner with a third party, or independently establish a new internet network that the town would own and operate.

Especially with all that had happened last year, it’s clear that internet service is a crucial tool for the operation of businesses, schools and students, and others working during this time. For those who are working remotely and the families relying on remote learning, the internet is essential and will use more data than usual. The task force will look into including alternative services to the current cable offering, that will be more reliable and faster while being realistic on the cost.

“A modern high speed internet service offered at a reasonable cost will serve as another major policy initiative to keep Agawam a great place to reside or operate a business,” Sapelli said. “Two major concerns are; is it affordable, and is this the best model for our residents and businesses.”

Sapelli understands that the internet has become more of a necessity within the last year because of the amount of people staying home for reasons related to COVID, while this may have caused the rain in costs it doesn’t mean internet should be harder to access.

TASK FORCE | page 2

Trustee says more dynamic leader needed at Soldiers’ Home



Soldiers’ Home Trustee Isaac Mass believes better leadership is needed for the future of the home. FILE PHOTOS

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Insufficient leadership enabled the COVID-19 outbreak at the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke to claim the lives of at least 76 veterans last year. It has become clear that more will be

expected out of the next permanent Superintendent.

On Feb. 9, the Special Joint Oversight Committee on the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke COVID-19 Outbreak convened for the second time in 2021. A panel of state representatives and senators

SOLDIERS’ HOME | page 3

Back in the pool



Jared Anziano competes in a recent virtual meet for Agawam boys swimming. More photos on page 8. PHOTO BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM



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Winter donations still needed

AGAWAM – Sacred Heart Parish Center at 1061 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills has been collecting donations of white socks, hats, scarfs, gloves and gently used and washed coats for the past few weeks. We have so far made four truck loads to the South Congregational Church in Springfield where the donations are sorted and made available to those in need. Because there has continued to be a very great need in our communities, the drive will now continue through the end of March 2021. Our next time to donate American Chop Suey for the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen will be Mar. 6, please bring your donations to our Parish Center by Mar. 4. If you have any questions, please call our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 786.8200 ext. 3.

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NEWSPAPER



A virtual Shoebox Parade is being planned for the St. Patrick's Day holiday. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Virtual Shoebox parade planned for holiday

HOLYOKE – The Committee to Elect Rebecca Lisi, mayoral candidate, today launched St. Paddy's Day Shoebox Parade Party. The virtual Shoebox Parade will be a COVID-safe community event to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Holyoke, a city known throughout the region for its St. Patrick's Day Parade and weekend festivities.

"The Holyoke community has suffered a great loss due to the cancellation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade and all its corresponding events for two years now due to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Lisi. "There's no way that we could ever replace the Parade and all the festivities leading up to that weekend, but my Committee and I thought that we could create a small, virtual event that could engage families and bring the community together."

Crafting and displaying shoebox floats is a popular children's event in communities like New Orleans that have a strong tradition of celebrating Mardi Gras. In 2020, cities across the country adopted shoebox float parades as a way to safely celebrate Thanksgiving and other holidays in light of the pandemic restrictions on gatherings. This year, Lisi and her Committee have created a Facebook Shoebox Parade Party event that will allow the Holyoke community to honor the decades long tradition of celebrating St. Patrick's Day in the city while adapting and innovating the event to make it safe and accessible.

Community members are being asked to create and decorate shoebox floats that will become a part of a virtual photo party that will occur on the Committee's Face-

book Event Page throughout the month of March, with a video shoebox parade compilation airing on Wednesday, Mar. 17 at 4 p.m. Photo and video submissions are due on March 3rd, submission details are outlined on the Parade Party Event Page on Facebook. There will be prizes for different category winners including Greatest Holyoke Spirit, Best Dressed Float, Ultimate St. Paddy's Day Float, Most Creative Float, and most social media engagements.

"This is a wonderful way to bring the community together in a fun and safe way, especially since we aren't able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in person as usual," said Shannon Sarkisian, Associate Campaign Advisor and Volunteer Coordinator. "I can't wait to see the creative things that people will come up with! As for myself, I'm going all out to attempt to make a shoebox that embodies our beloved Ashley Reservoir. My shoebox float might not even look good, but it's guaranteed to be good fun for sure."

Campaign committee member Jeff Trask said, "After being cooped up inside all winter in even 'normal times,' by March we are all looking forward to coming out of our homes for the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Since we are not able to come out to celebrate the Parade this year, this will be a little event to lift everyone's spirits. I'm looking forward to participating with my little one and possibly starting a new family tradition."

Lisi and her Committee launched the event today and has already generated a lot of enthusiastic support.

MASKS ■ from page 1

Along with Rotary District 7890 the Rossi Family Foundation made a donation for the face masks to be provided. In the initial distribution of face masks, they were given to first responders, department of public Works, and other departments as needed. That was in response to a need that was expressed by Mayor William Sapelli, Barber said. This time around the club donated specific amounts to multiple departments and services in the community.

"Members of the club brainstormed areas we felt might be of need," Barber said. "Assisted living and eldercare facilities, along with Agawam schools and housing authority, and the Agawam/West Springfield Parish Cupboard were determined to be highest priority." As he stated, assisted living facilities were considered a high priority and received 5,000 masks. The town of Agawam received 3,700 masks for the School Department and others, 1,000 masks for the town Housing Authority, 200 masks for the Salvation Army, and 100 masks for the Agawam/West Springfield Parish Cupboard.

While Rotary member Judy Pothul reached out and distributed masks to area assisted living facilities, Mayor and Rotarian Sapelli oversaw the distribution to town departments. The Rotary Club's principal motto is service above self and they have received many thanks for their help in providing masks.



Judy Pothul from the Agawam Rotary Club loads masks being donated to the Town of Agawam. SUBMITTED PHOTO

TASK FORCE ■ from page 1

The task force will be made of seven people within town; including residents Paul Jenney and Brian Burbank, Executive Director of West of the River Chamber of Commerce Robin Wozniak, City Councilor Rosemary Sandlin, IT Director Jeff Hulbert, Cable TV Manager Les Tingley, and Director of planning and Community Development Marc Strange.

Tingley declined to comment on the newly formed committee until the group was able to have its first meeting. He wants the opportunity to speak with others on the task force. Sapelli expressed that the goal of the group is to report back to his office in the late spring.



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SOLDIERS' HOME ■ from page 1

heard testimony from numerous individuals, including multiple members of the facility's Board of Trustees.

"Going forward, the appropriate thing to do is have someone who is qualified in that Superintendent position," said Trustee Isaac Mass. "They should have capability; even having a background or knowledge in a medical environment."

When the outbreak escalated in March 2020, former Soldiers' Home Superintend Walsh failed to make critical inquiries or request assistance in a timely manner before acting inside of the facility, where at least 80 staff members and an additional 84 veterans contracted COVID-19 in 2020.

Despite his decorated military career, Walsh was inexperienced in operating a 24/7 care facility. Prior to the pandemic, Marylou Sudders, the state's Secretary of Health and Human Services, had several reservations concerning Walsh's capability and encouraged him enroll in the career program at Suffolk University.

"My concern about the Superintendent was that since he had a distinguished military background but had not worked in 24/7 congregate care, long-term care background, there was a strong believe to [employ] a deputy who had that kind of background to balance the skillset the Superintendent had," said Sudders.

It was not until Dec. 20, 2020, long after Walsh's firing, that the Executive Office of Health and Human Services announced Glen Hevy as Deputy; Hevy was previously the senior operations official for Patient Care Services at the 400-bed Bedford VA Medical Center.

Mass reiterated that a "lack of leadership" led to last year's outbreak. He voiced confidence in the interim Superintendent, Michael Lazo.

"[Lazo] is acutely aware of the issues of the Soldiers Home and the resources that are available to him," said Mass. "While long-term our, or at least my, hope is to have someone who is [medically] qualified, in the short term, I think that we are covered in the leadership and staffing at the home if there's additional crisis that comes up."

Trustee Kevin Jourdain, the Soldiers' Home's former Chairman, is promoting the creation of a crisis hotline that would connect veterans, staff and family members with an outside agency.

Jourdain regrets that the board was unable to assist in a greater capacity during the outbreak at the Soldiers' Home. He believes that the body is treated by state officials as an advisory board, when, in fact, statutes give it much greater authority.

"If you don't know the nature of the work, you just take



A Joint Oversight committee is now meeting to discuss issues at the Holyoke Soldiers' Home. FILE PHOTO

at face value what you're told by people in charge," said Jourdain. "I'll say it again on the record. They act like we don't matter because they're literally saying, one, 'We're going to [act] irrespective of the board, basically.'"

Jourdain is frustrated regarding the slow process of bringing a new facility to Holyoke. He feels as though state has ignored the trustees as it goes about pushing a capital plan for a \$300 million home.

The current plan is for a 192-bed facility with a caveat for an additional floor that would create space for an additional 37 beds. Mass said that the state's proposal has been poorly received by some parties.

"That is certainly far lower than what the Holyoke Soldiers Home Coalition is advocating for 280 beds," said Mass. "There are some additional complications in that the nature of healthcare is changing for veterans coming back. There are more instances related to TBI issues and behavior health issues. The plan that was presented to us does not contemplate beds for those services."

State Senator Joh Veils of the Second Hampden and Hampshire District agreed that more services must be provided. He found it unfortunate that lives were lost before the need for improvements was widely accepted.

"These are the kinds of things that, unfortunately, we don't talk about until a tragedy strikes. We have a lot of families of veterans who don't have their loved ones anymore," said Velis. "It's very easy for us to be Monday morning quarterbacks, but there are certain things you look at; there could have been a more expedient resolution."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be located at dzbierski@turley.com.

Shelter to make presentation on violence against women

HOLYOKE – For over 40 years, Womenshelter/Compañeras has worked tirelessly to empower women and their children to live independently and free from domestic violence by providing prevention education, crisis intervention, a safe and confidential shelter, social and legal advocacy, housing, and related support services.

On Feb. 25 at 4 p.m., Womanshelter's Executive Director, Carmen Nieves, will host Amy Waldman, Co-Director of Capacity Building and Equity Programs at the Department of Public Health, and Quynh Dang Program Director at the Department of Public Health, to discuss their study, "Rates of Femicide in Women of Different Races, Ethnicities, and Places of Birth" a dataset collected in Massachusetts between 1993-2007.

The data that surrounds this community issue is startling. "Women of color may be less likely to report domestic violence abuse or seek help because of discrimination, negative stereotyping, or fear of law enforcement's response," says Nieves.

Following the presentation, our speakers will delve into what this data says about Western Mass-specific homicide rates and what makes our area distinctive. We will end the roundtable with a Q&A where participants can discuss how the data can inform community-based services and practices.

Domestic violence not only affects women and children. Womanshelter also serves men and extended family members through its community-based programs. There are now specialized services for domestic violence survivors over the age of 50, for those with mental or physical challenges, and for teens and young adults who need support navigating dating and intimate partner relationships.

In 2020, Womanshelter/Compañeras provided services to 3,246 participants, the majority of whom identified as female (82%).

Womanshelter/Compañeras is dedicated to assisting, supporting, and empowering those whose lives are affected by battering and abuse. Founded in 1980 as a grassroots collective, the organization has sheltered more than 3,000 women and children and assisted 35,000 others through community-based support programs.

You may register here. For more information, contact Pamela Barnes, pbarnes@womanshelter.org or call 413-438-1717.

12131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960

CLUES ACROSS

1. Big tech firm

4. Picked

10. Type of whale

11. A woman of refinement

12. New England state

14. Common gibbon

15. Tall coniferous tree

16. State capital

18. Making a liquid muddy

22. Vinegary

23. Peninsula

24. Thee

26. Atomic #55

27. Used in units of measurement

28. Welsh female name

30. Arab ruler title

31. One's mother

34. Trap

36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Assn. of oil-producing countries

39. Holy fire

40. Emit coherent radiation

41. Atomic #81

42. Orthodox Jewish college

48. Herbs

50. Ran after

51. Begin again

52. Named

53. Barbary sheep

54. Unwell

55. Postscript

56. Drivers

58. One point east (clockwise) of due north

59. Prim

60. A facility

equipped for sports or physical training

19. Products

20. Nostril

21. Surprise Icelandic politician

25. Conclusive acts

29. Inform on

31. Grinding tooth

32. Keep up

33. Tablelands

35. Raising

38. Mythical creature

41. Hums

43. Mountain in Antarctica

44. Neighborhood in Manhattan

45. Distinctive practice

46. Vice president

47. Contributes to

49. Small bones

56. Oil company

57. Empire State

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Opinion

OUR VIEW

Western Mass. needs more COVID vaccine sites

Phase II of the Massachusetts COVID-19 vaccination program rolled out Monday. The bleak weather that ushered in the new week turned out to be an apt metaphor for the plan so far, especially if you reside in Western Mass.

Due to a lack of supply of the vaccine and high demand by residents waiting to be inoculated, prioritizing which residents are first in line makes sense. Healthcare workers, first-responders, and other categories of people facing the highest risk were designated for the first phase. The second phase prioritizes those age 75 and older, followed by seniors age 65 and up, people with certain underlying conditions, then other front-line workers, such as grocery store staff and teachers. Everyone else is expected to become eligible in April, assuming enough vaccine doses are available.

That part of the plan is sound. We'll even say it's fair because the most vulnerable among us and those doing essential work who can't do their jobs while quarantining should be protected first while waiting for vaccine production to catch up with demand.

What's lacking is a plan for mass inoculation sites in Western Mass. If you take a look at the distribution site map on mass.gov, you'll see a lone red star, which represents a mass site, in our entire region. Most of what you'll see are green stars signifying local health care providers and blue stars that are effectively wishful thinking because those are for pharmacies and right now, none of our local chains are offering shots.

Hampden County alone has over 466,000 residents, yet Eastfield Mall in Springfield is the one mass vaccination site. Glance over toward Boston on the distribution map and there's a solid wall of red stars, most notably Fenway Park and Gillette Stadium.

How ironic that the part of the Commonwealth with the most open space hasn't been leveraged to create pop-up vaccination clinics. Yes, you could practically fit all of Chicopee into Fenway while filling Gillette with the combined populations of Pittsfield and Ludlow, but what we lack in sheer numbers we make up for with resources.

Fred Ferguson, owner of Palmer Motorsports Park, said he'd gladly open his facility for use as an inoculation site if asked. Brimfield has acres of fields where flea markets are held in-season that could be temporarily repurposed. Not to mention farms just about everywhere that could be suitable.

There's a long list of possibilities if the COVID-19 Task Force would only consider expanding access in our region. And it should.

Another improvement we'd like to see is the sign-up process. The online portal set up to request a shot opened to poor reviews, especially from the senior citizen segment, who found it less than user-friendly. Despite Gov. Charlie Baker's exasperated retort that it couldn't possibly be any easier, the fact is too many seniors couldn't navigate it.

In response, state senators Eric Lesser and Anne Gobi led a bipartisan effort to prod the Taskforce into setting up a special 1-800 call center to book appointments. Baker seemed agreeable and hopefully by next week if not sooner, that centralized system will be up and running. Time is of the essence when working to end a pandemic and the more those eligible in this phase are encouraged to sign up for the vaccine, the better off we'll all be.

Primarily though, the task force needs a plan to create more mass sites in our region. Those eligible now deserve more options for getting their initial shot and eventual booster. And hopefully, by phase III, everyone still waiting to be inoculated can do that quickly and without having too travel far.

Just because we're rural, doesn't mean we want to be more vulnerable to COVID-19 than our fellow citizens to the east.



The Garden Lady tackles milk jug seed sowing, part 1

Barbara, who gardens in Wilbraham, wrote to me recently, complimenting the column (thank you!) and asking if I had any opinion of "winter sowing" seeds in re-used gallon jugs. This technique is all the rage right now on social media and in gardening blogs, and while I had read about it many years ago and again recently, I have never tried it myself. Perhaps some research into the topic would prove beneficial for me as well as my readers!

The basic premise of winter sowing is to plant your seeds in mini-greenhouses (the gallon jugs), place the jugs outside and simply let nature take over. The advantage being that no heat mats or lights are needed. No window sills full of seedlings, either. While I don't think it is as simple as it sounds, I do think trying it would be a fun experiment. Read on this week and next to consider some of the pros and possible cons of this seed starting technique.

Years ago I read a blog where a master gardener was encouraging folks to start native perennials in milk jugs outside; he called it "winter sowing." The seeds of many of these plants require a period of cold and moist stratification to break seed dormancy. In simple terms, they need to go through winter in order to sprout. Think of it as nature's safety mechanism; seeds germinate at the right time to survive and thrive! You may ask, then, why not just sow the seeds outdoors in the garden? In theory it sounds good, but in reality "the wild" is not the best seed bed. From hungry birds and rodents, to wind and drenching rains, success is hit or miss. Safely inside the milk jug, but at the same time outside in the elements to freeze and thaw, freeze and thaw, tricky seeds are coaxed into germinating. Success at your fingertips!

My method of combating tricky germinators has always been the refrigerator. By putting seeds

in moist soil in a small plastic bag and chilling them for a month or so at 40 degrees, I am usually successful at providing an abbreviated "winter," satisfying germination requirements that break dormancy. Recently, I watched a video from a wildflower specialist in Canada, who abbreviated "winter" a bit further. She simply places seeds in the fridge for 24 hours, then the freezer for 24 hours. Five times back and forth and she swears dormancy is broken.

After the period of stratification has passed, seeds are handled as normal, sown on the surface of a moist soilless mix with the provision of bottom heat and supplemental light. But what if I didn't have the props, or even enough window sills to limp along seedlings inside? Here is where I think sowing in milk jugs could be of benefit, and it goes beyond "winter" or even seeds that need specialized treatments to germinate.

More recent blogs speak of starting everything from cold-hardy annuals to heat-loving vegetables inside milk jugs, and while I don't think the method is fool-proof, or meant for the lazy gardener, I do think there is good reason to give it a try. Gather some supplies: duct tape, empty gallon jugs, decent seed starting soil, a paint pen and a selection of seeds. Perennial herbs and flowers can be sown right away and next week the how-to portion will explain exactly how to do it.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

The Drzyzga legacy

You probably read recently that our town lost Barbara (Drzyzga) Duggan, a career teacher at our junior high. She taught a lot of business and typing courses and she and her husband John sent AHS four of the best students you could have had in your class.

Our class of '63 sent a sympathy card to Barbara's brother Stan, Jr. '56 and he called me not long after receiving it. Stan talked about the Drzyzga home at 1477 Main St., right across from where South St. comes to a stop at the Riverside end. Stan told me how his parents' home had been a club hall, church and a rooming house. He's pretty sure that "VIA Hall" was partially visible in the paint on the front of the house.

Seems like Edith LaFrancis mentioned the hall in her book "Agawam, Massachusetts," but I could not find the page it was on. If you have a copy of her book, please try to find it for me. Barbara and Stan's dad, Stanley F., worked for the Carrol

family at Riverside Park for over thirty years in multiple capacities, from manager of the bowling alley to being in charge of the food concessions and the parties in the grove. Stan said that sometimes the grove parties were for more than two thousand people. When the park closed at the end of the season, Mr. Drzyzga had to go to the Great Barrington Fair and supervise the food concessions there.

Barbara's son, Jeff, '78 was recently in town from California where he has been since 1982. At AHS he was a drum major in the band and then he got his college degree from UMass in Amherst. He majored in HRTA. No clue what that meant so Jeff explained that it meant Hotel, Restaurant and Travel Administration. Not sure, but I don't think that existed back in 1967. Jeff got recruited by McDonald's, but in Los Angeles.

He soon stood out among his peers at McDon-



Walt Willard



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\$35 per year pre-paid
(\$40 out of state)
Newsstand \$1.00

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AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS

The *Agawam Advertiser News* (USPS 001-170) is published every Thursday by Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069. Telephone (413) 283-8393, Fax (413) 289-1977.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, Mass. 01069.

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HCC president featured in 'HERstory' exhibition

BOSTON – Holyoke Community College president Christina Royal is among the Massachusetts women featured in a photo exhibition and story project in the State House unveiled today by Senate President Karen E. Spilka.

The photo exhibition on display in the Senate President's office suite celebrates the often-unsung stories of women of color throughout Massachusetts' history. "HERstory: Volume II" is the second installment of photos in the President's suite to acknowledge the accomplishments of women with connections to Massachusetts.

"Every day I go to work in the State House, I am surrounded by paintings and photos of prominent men from Massachusetts' history," said Spilka, the third woman elected president of the Massachusetts State Senate. "The stories of the many, many incredible women who have contributed to this great Commonwealth—and our great nation—have too often been lost to history. It is therefore my great honor and privilege to help to tell their stories, and to make the faces that we see in the State House more representative of the rich diversity that make our state great."

The exhibition features the photos of 91 women, ranging from 17th century tribal leader Weetamoo and Black landowner Zipporah Potter Atkins to living pioneers Justice Fernande Duffly, the first Asian American to serve on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, Oscar-winning costume designer Ruth Carter, poet Amanda Gordon, and HCC president Christina Royal.

In 2017, Royal became HCC's fourth president and the first woman to hold the position.

"I want to thank Senate President Spilka for creating the HERstory initiative," said Royal. "This is a time for us to recognize that the lived experiences of women in the Commonwealth matter, and that we are a diverse group of women of different races, ethnicities, social classes, abilities, educational levels, gender expressions, and sexual orientations. I am proud to share my story as a multiracial, queer woman so that girls and young women can see representation of themselves in society, and grow up believing in their limitless potential."

Since the State House is currently closed to the public, a website containing photos and short biographies of each

of the honorees can be found on the Mass.gov HERstory page: malegislature.gov/StateHouse/HERStory (President Royal is No. 38.)

"I feel honored to have been selected by Senate President Spilka for inclusion in this remarkable display of women," said Elaine Weddington Steward, vice president and club counsel of the Boston Red Sox. "My hope is that this project will inspire women and girls to follow and achieve their dreams."

Senate President Spilka, together with members of the Senate and staff, chose honorees based on their close ties to Massachusetts, ability to inspire the youth of today to work for a better world, and acknowledgement of being a trailblazer in their given field. Honorees include abolitionists, poets, entrepreneurs, educators, politicians, musicians, community activists and scientists, among others.

"It is an honor to be selected to be part of President Spilka's HERstory project as a Community Development leader," said MassHousing Executive Director Chrystal Kornegay. "While it highlights my work, it really highlights the work of mothers, daughters, sisters and friends who work in big and small ways to make the Commonwealth's communities strong and vibrant. I look forward to reading the stories of the other women in the project."

Further, related events will be scheduled later in February to celebrate Black History Month, and in March for Women's History Month. The photos and biographies will also become part of a dedicated lesson plan, currently being developed, to distribute to teachers in the Commonwealth.

"This is a wonderful initiative by Senator Spilka to highlight the stories of remarkable women," said Razia Jan, the founder of Razia's Ray of Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Afghanistan through community-based education. "Massachusetts was the first community I called home in America, and I'm honored to be recognized by my home state. Women and girls throughout the world have so much potential to contribute to society, when they are given the chance; recognizing this potential is so important."

The HERstory: Volume II project is the second time



HCC president Christina Royal is featured in a photo exhibition at the State House in Boston. SUBMITTED PHOTO

HOMETOWN ■ from page 4

ald's and won the Ray Kraft (founder) Award for having the fastest drive-thru in L.A. Remember, there's a lot more than two or three McDonald's in L.A.

For the last 25 years Jeff has been working at Disneyland. His job title is production manager. He has 10 managers under him and they have 1,100 employees to produce the food for Tomorrowland and Fantasyland.

Last summer Jeff was run over by a car when he was out walking. He had no ID on him and was John Doe at the hospital, in a coma with a broken neck and shoulder. His cellphone helped when a friend called a couple of times. The friend came in to tell them it was Jeff Duggan.

Jeff still keeps in touch with our Polish Club's Mark Roland. They both were 78's, the first class to start 8th grade at the brand new jr. high. Would that have been in 1973?

Jeff returned to California on Feb 10th and hopes he'll be able to start work again when Disneyland reopens. My favorite Jeff Duggan fact was learning that he played the trombone just like our granddaughter Olivia, a senior at AHS.



Jeffrey Duggan

Participate in virtual photograph show

AGAWAM – Please join us online to participate in our first virtual photography show. Since we couldn't do our usual exhibit at the library, we moved it online so we can continue to share outstanding photography with our community, and to support our beloved library. Officially, this is our First Open Virtual Photography Show. Categories include creative, nature, pictorial, and photojournalism, and the photography never disappoints.

Awards totaling \$1,340 have been determined by our esteemed judges Amy S. Dane and Barbara Krawczyk, both highly respected photographers. Their comments are available online, along with the photographs, so the Show can continue to be an educational experience for participants.

The show can be accessed at www.agawamlibrary.org/about-2/friends/#FriendsPhotoShowFirstVirtual. For further information please contact Bob Kadis at r.kadis@comcast.net or at 413-789-4814.



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STCC introduces 'house flipping' course

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a course designed for anyone who would like to start and own a successful "house flipping" business in Massachusetts.

House Flipping 101 is a six-week online course taught through STCC's online learning management system, Blackboard. The course, which runs Apr. 5 to May 14, will include guidelines necessary for legal and building standards in conducting work in the residential building sector. "House flipping" is a type of investment strategy in which someone purchases property not with the intention to use, but with the intention of selling it for a profit.

The course includes discussion boards, weekly content and virtual live sessions each week. Students must commit a minimum of eight hours per week to be successful. The course is asynchronous, which means lessons are not "live" or with real-time interaction. Students may complete each weekly section as their schedule allows.

The instructor, Jennifer DeForge, is a professor in the STCC Architecture and Building Technology Program. A local sustainable designer and builder in Western Massachusetts, DeForge holds a current Massachusetts Construction Supervisor License and has worked on building projects ranging from small remodels to designing and constructing energy efficient custom-built homes.

DeForge will help students understand the real estate market, where to buy a property, the foreclosure process, buying properties at tax sales and evaluating properties and estimating renovation costs.

Students also will review house flipping mistakes, tax implications, the use of tax deductions and rolling over a buyer's profits into the next flip.

The course is offered through STCC's Workforce Development Center, which delivers noncredit programs and classes that meet the ever-changing workforce demands of individuals, businesses and industries in the region.

For more information and to enroll, visit stcc.edu/wdc. For questions, call (413) 755-4225.



STCC will be offering a house-flipping course in April. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



The course will teach people how to successfully buy, fix-up, and sell houses for profit.

PLEASE RECYCLE
THIS NEWSPAPER

Nigro named to Dean's list at Stonehill

EASTON – Jared Nigro, of Feeding Hills, a member of the Class of 2021, has been named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List at Stonehill College.

To qualify for the Dean's List, students must have a semester grade point average of 3.50 or better and must have completed successfully all courses for which they were registered.

STCC to offer certified auto damage appraiser course in March

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Technical Community College will offer a certified auto damage appraiser course for insurance claims professionals and auto body technicians beginning March 1.

The 60-hour course is the first step to becoming an auto damage appraiser in Massachusetts. The training through STCC's Workforce Development Center prepares students for the exam to be a licensed appraiser.

Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Classes will be held Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., through May 10. Students will meet in the Scibelli Hall (Building 2) theater and must follow the college's COVID-19 protocol. The auditorium seats 200, but the class size will be limited to no more than 20 individuals. Masks are required.

Approved by the Massachusetts Division of Insurance, the training offers an in-depth discussion of insurance regulations, policy arbitration and work completion forms.

The instructor has 20 years' experience in the collision repair and insurance industry in Massachusetts and Connecticut and holds auto appraiser licenses in both states.

The course will include the use of flat rate manual, collision diagnosis, cost estimation and preparation of written estimates.

To become licensed, students will need to complete the course and a three-month apprenticeship with a licensed Massachusetts automobile appraiser. In addition, they will need to obtain a certified letter verifying the apprenticeship. The apprenticeship must be completed prior to applying to take the Massachusetts Automobile Damage Appraisers License Examination.

For more information and to enroll online, visit www.stcc.edu/wdc and then click on "auto damage appraiser." To contact the Workforce Development Center Office, call (413) 755-4225.

Eucharistic Adoration at St. John's

AGAWAM – All are welcome and invited to join us at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main Street, for Eucharistic Adoration, Wednesdays, 12 noon to 5:45 p.m. with Holy Mass at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend some time in quiet prayer with our Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Eucharist.

Gift shop open limited hours

AGAWAM – The Vine and Branches Gift Shop will continue to be open on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We would like to thank everyone for their patronage during these difficult times and we will continue to pray for health, peace and strength as we all journey through 2021 together. You may contact our Pastoral Minister Deb Briancesco RN at 413-786-8200 ext.3 with any questions or concerns.

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Big E planning 4-H programs

WEST SPRINGFIELD – Planning is underway by Eastern States Exposition and the New England 4-H community to create programming and opportunities for the youth organization to grow and thrive while keeping participants safe under COVID-19 protocols.

Gene Cassidy, President and CEO of Eastern States Exposition said, “During this unique time in our history, ESE is doing all it can to support and provide an appropriate venue for youth and agriculture, the core of our mission.”

A variety of programs and competitions for youth are being considered including the introduction of a summer 4-H competitive event. Events will be carefully planned for participants and animals to be able to properly social distance in the barns and areas on the grounds.

The group strives to explore innovative programming, to support youth and to educate them on career opportunities and workforce development.

ESE Trustee and committee member Nick Barishian said, “We have joined forces with all six New England 4-H Programs, 4-H Staff, 4-H Volunteers, and 4-H Youth from across New England to reimagine the New England 4-H Program to take its current best-in-class event, and bring it to an even better place, truly living the 4-H motto to ‘Make the Best Better.’”

More information will be available as plans develop.

Springfield Symphony Orchestra announces virtual events

SPRINGFIELD – The Springfield Symphony Orchestra is extending its virtual adult music education offerings with two new events for Winter 2021: Feb. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Brahms’ Last Hurrah with Maestro Kevin Rhodes. In the fall, Maestro Rhodes led a lively and jam-packed session touching on the beginnings and endings of the nine Beethoven Symphonies, giving a fast and furious thumbnail sketch of how Beethoven’s work over the course of his entire creative life compared with the music of his time. This time, the last movement of Symphony No. 4 in E Minor by Johannes Brahms will be under the microscope, providing the basis of an entirely different lecture focusing on and digging into the details of Beethoven’s successor’s final symphonic movement. This energetic 90-minute presentation will include insights from the Maestro, musical excerpts, and plenty of time for your questions.

On March 4, at 7:30 p.m. The Art of the Audition: From Conservatory to Career with SSO’s Principal Cellist Emily Taubl SSO’s Principal Cellist Emily Taubl will offer an engaging and interactive discussion on



Cellist Emily Taubl will do a virtual performance. SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Maestro Kevin Rhodes is scheduled to perform later this month.

the intimidating world of auditions! Ever wonder what it’s really like to step into an audition room? Curious about how an audition is run or what the panel is looking for? In this 90-minute presentation, Emily will share stories and play excerpts on her cello to give a behind-the-scenes look at auditioning for The Juilliard School, Yale School of Music and the New England Conservatory as well as professional orchestral auditions. It will be a night of laughter, engaging discussion, and Q&A that’s perfect for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Both events will be held via Zoom, and the link will be emailed after registration. Full details and registration information are available on the Symphony website at <https://www.springfieldsymphony.org/adult-music-education-classes>. Registration closes a half hour before each event.

Through the Card to Culture program, individuals who are EBT, WIC, or Connector-Care card holders may get free tickets to this event. Contact Education Director Kirsten Lipkens at klipkens@springfieldsymphony.org if you are interested.

Obituary

Carl John Jakobek

Carl John Jakobek, 75, passed away unexpectedly at home with family on January 31, 2021. Carl was born in Springfield MA, on May 15, 1945, to the late Benjamin and Stephanie (Halgas) Jakobek. He grew up in Enfield CT, and he played baseball on the Varsity team and graduated from Enfield High School in 1963 and went on to receive an associate’s degree in Civil Engineering from Hartford State Technical Institute in 1966.

He worked full time at Combustion Engineering while attending night school at WNEC and received a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1974. He worked 25 years as an engineer for several companies, with his specialty in steel fabrication, and then was employed as a toll taker for the Mass. Turnpike Authority for 22 years until his retirement in 2012.

He loved being a toll taker and it was his passion to greet thousands of people passing through every day with smiles, stories and he shared a little bit of himself with everyone he met and they did as well.

He was a member of the Agawam Lions Club and was a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Church in Agawam.

Carl was a family man who loved his family with all his heart. He was the epitome of what a dad/husband should be. Carl was the best dad, husband, brother, friend ever. He was kind, so loving, so gentle, wore his heart on his sleeve, had a great sense of humor, and always made sure his family and friends knew he loved them with letters, notes, cards, and always with his

words and hugs.

Carl and Ann had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 23rd, 2020, with his surprise “car parade”. He loved football, UConn Women’s basketball, Nascar races, music, playing sports with his daughter, camping, spending time with his family and his grandson, Hunter, and loved watching the boats float through the canal at the Cape.

He will be deeply missed by his loving wife, Ann (Schmidt) Jakobek of Agawam; his daughter, Karen Nadeau and her husband, Rick, grandson, Hunter and grand dog Penny, of New Bedford, MA; his daughter, Alison Jakobek, of Agawam; his sister, Louise Biggerstaff and her husband, John, of Suffield, CT; his brother, Andrew Jakobek and wife, Lynne, of North Andover, MA, and several nephews, cousins and many friends. He was predeceased by his brother, Rudolph “Rudy” Jakobek, of Enfield, CT.

Calling hours were held Saturday, February 6, 2021, from 8:00-9:00am at Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home, 985 Main St., Agawam with a service to follow at 9:00am.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00am at St. John the Evangelist Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Carl’s name may be made to the Agawam Lions, P.O. Box 52, Agawam, MA 01001 or to a charity of your choice in memory of Carl. To leave a message of personal condolence or for more information, visit www.forastiere.com.

Free tax assistance offered through VITA program

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield Partner for Community Action is gearing up for the annual free Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Income eligible taxpayers earning less than \$57,000 annually qualify and should call 413- 263-6500 to schedule an appointment.

VITA volunteers assist low wage earners complete their 2020 federal and state income tax returns in addition to the earned income tax credits, child tax credit and education credits. Further making sure taxpayer claim and receive all state and federal tax benefits, including the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). EITC is a federal income tax benefit designed to assist working families. It has been called the most significant federal program of lifting Americans out of poverty.

Paul F. Bailey, executive director, said, “although we are closed to the public, the agency continues to assist participants. “This year due to COVID-19 we are implementing a new system using a drop box method. Drop box will allow participants

to safely drop-off all required tax documents in advance. Volunteer tax preparers will complete and follow up. Completed taxes will be mailed or we can arrange for pickups”.

Springfield Partners also offer the Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) designed to assist taxpayers having issues before the IRS and/or the State Department of Revenue. If you’ve received a notice form either state of federal tax authority or if you need to file prior year taxes you should call Mary Ellen at 413-263-6500 ext. 6565 or Marty O’Connor at 413-263-6500 ext. 6566.

Springfield Partners is the official anti-poverty agency serving greater Springfield and parts of Western MA. We offer several programs and services including Eviction Clinic, Housing Counseling, Credit Counseling, Financial Literacy, Weatherization, Veterans Services, Emergency Fuel, New Beginnings Early Education & Care, COVID-19 Emergency Response, Scholarships and Telephone Reassurance.

Follow Turley Sports on Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching “turleysports.” We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

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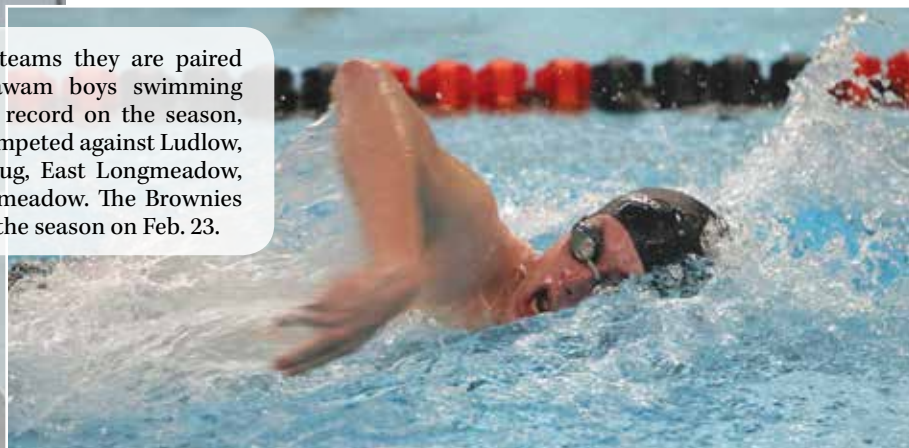
Agawam swimmers embracing chance to compete



Jack Patterson completes a dive. PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPOTOS.COM

AGAWAM – Every meet is a “home” meet in the shortened winter season. When it comes to swimming, meets are taking place virtually, with Agawam swimming in its own pool in various events, then comparing times

with the teams they are paired with. Agawam boys swimming has a 1-3 record on the season, having competed against Ludlow, Minnechaug, East Longmeadow, and Longmeadow. The Brownies conclude the season on Feb. 23.



Noah Carra swims his best in the 200 medley relay.



Sean Colfer competes in his leg of the 200 medley relay.



Jonathan Jung competes in the 200 individual medley.

RACING

Vigeant looks to make his Tri Track mark in 2021

SEEKONK – Kurt Vigeant will look to make his mark in the Tri Track Open Modified Series in 2021. The driver of the familiar white and orange No. 7 is set to compete in all of the races in the new season and hopes to continue to make gains into the top 10 as part of one of the most competitive fields in Modified racing.

Vigeant, who has been involved in racing since the age of 12, broke into the sport with AMA Motocross and became the Grand National Champion. He continued into the Pro 4 Modifieds, where he went to Victory Lane, then became a two-time champion at Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park in their Modified division. All of this experience drove his interest to move into the Tour-Type Modifieds, where he runs today, specifically with Tri



Kurt Vigeant will be among hopefuls in Tri Track series this year. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Track. He's hoping to make gains on his previous efforts during the 2021 season.

“When I started in these types of Modifieds we ran a few races, then totaled the car and it took two years to fix it because we

didn't have the funds,” Vigeant said. “I enjoy the schedule that Tri Track has with the bullring tracks. I don't think anyone is content where they are running, until you are on the top.”

RACING | page 9

FALL II

MIAA hoping for successful Fall 2 season

FRANKLIN – The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) COVID-19 Task Force representatives presented Fall II Season sport modifications and recommendations today for the 2020-2021 year to the MIAA Board of Directors.

This presentation culminated the MIAA governance process which included sport-specific sub-committee meetings where current Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary (DESE) guidelines were reviewed. Sport sub-committees created or updated sport specific modifications, presented them for approval to the full sport committee and

then presented, for approval, to the MIAA Sports Medicine Committee (SMC). The MIAA Covid-19 Task force subsequently reviewed and approved the modifications.

MIAA Executive Director Bill Gaine stated, “Today's actions by the MIAA's Board of Directors are the culmination of the work of our membership committed to establishing optimal standards of health and safety that will provide the restoration of Fall sports for 1000s of MIAA student-athletes.”

The MIAA Board of Directors voted to approve sport-specific modifications for the Fall II Season. These modifications will continue to be reviewed as they relate to current regulations sur-

MIAA | page 9

Sports

Pioneers to host Pelham clinic

LUDLOW – Western United Pioneers FC is excited to offer a soccer clinic in Pelham, MA for players in the Massachusetts North Region. The clinic provides off-season training and skill development by WUP FC coaches. The second sessions available.

This program is offered to boys and girls born in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014. The four-week program includes one practice per week for a total of \$65 per session. Sessions will consist of a max of 15 players per field (COVID regulation for the players' safety).

SESSION 2: MONDAYS 2/22, 3/1, 3/8, and 3/15

Boys and Girls Born 2013 and 2014: Session is at 5 p.m.

Boys and Girls Born 2010, 2011, and 2012: Session is at 6 p.m.

The sessions will be held at Pelham Elementary School at 45 Amherst Road, Pelham, MA 01002.

FALL II ■ from page 8

rounding COVID-19 and may be modified if necessary. Additional modifications or the decision to participate in MIAA-recognized Fall II sports will be determined by local school districts and/or their local Boards of Health. You may view the Task Force presentation [HERE](#).

MIAA President Jeffrey Granatino said, "We made adjustments in the fall and had a success first season. We made additional modifications for the winter and our student-athletes have been actively engaged since December. Now we are hopeful that with the guidance from the Governor's office and of EEA, along with the work of our various committees, that we will be able to have a safe and successful Fall II Season." You may view all MIAA sport modifications on the MIAA COVID-19 webpage.

The following sports have been approved by the MIAA for the Fall II Season: Cheerleading, Football, Indoor Track, and Unified Basketball. The following sports were approved for the Fall I Season, however, local districts may have decided to move them to the Fall II Season: Cross Country, Dance, Golf, Field Hockey, Soccer, Swim and Dive, and Volleyball.

The timeframe of the MIAA Fall II Season is February 22-April 25, 2021. There will be no MIAA sponsored post-season tournament for the Fall II Season.

RACING ■ from page 8

Vigeant is no stranger to the series, competing at all of the tracks that Tri Track will visit during the 2021 season. Enjoying the bullrings makes Tri Track a perfect fit -- as the series makes the schedule based off the tracks that equal the playing field and put the capabilities of the driver into the forefront.

"I've had good success when it comes to qualifying for the features," Vigeant said. "I think I've only missed two since I started running with Tri Track. But I'm lacking those finishes... I need some luck. It's tough to compete, as an underfunded team, on a series with a lot of talent. But we are fighting, and I couldn't do it without my sponsor and my team."

Vigeant carries the colors of Gary Rice Equipment and Service on the car, and has a variety of crew members that are regulars with him at the track. He is always looking for additional sponsors to help him get through the season, whether big or small. Crew members include Rob Anderson, Josh O'Connell, Joey Pole, Billy Bodreau (crew chief), Melissa O'Connell, Dennis West, Carroll Vescovi and others, when necessary and available.

"The crew supports me no matter what happens," Vigeant said. "My mom and dad -- they are first -- my dad is a diehard. His health has been going south a bit, so we are just taking it race-by-race and remembering every moment we have together."

His goal in the 2021 season is to continue to take it race-by-race, improve on his finishing positions and aim for the top-five in the six series events.

"I'm hoping that this year we can run much better and run in the front," Vigeant said. "It comes down to how much money we can gather as a small team. We go to each race, buy four or five tires, and do the best we can. We do it for the love of the sport."

The Tri Track Open Modified Series season opens in May at Monadnock Speedway. For more information on the series, visit tritrackmodifieds.com and follow the series on social media. For more information on Souza Media, visit kylesouza.com.

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Bay State Games partners with charter schools

WOBURN – Bay State Games is excited to announce new partnerships with the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization (MCSAO) and New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). Bay State Games has a long history with the Massachusetts Secondary School Athletic Directors Association, and now with this new partnership with the MCSAO and NEPSAC, BSG is hoping to reach all Massachusetts high school students.

Both the MCSAO and NEPSAC organize athletic championships for their respective leagues and reach thousands of student-athletes every year. Bay State Games hopes this partnership will help share athletic and educational opportunities to every high school student-athlete in Massachusetts.

"The MCSAO is very excited to partner with an organization like the Bay State Games. Working together we are hopeful to provide more opportunities for student-athletes to compete in different high-level athletic tournaments and venues," says Drew Betts, Co-Executive Director of the Massachusetts Charter School Athletic Organization. "In addition, we are pleased that this will be additional avenues for student athletes within the MCSAO to work with the Bay State Games to promote teamwork and sports-

manship in support of the Games mission."

Of the new partnership, NEPSAC President George Tah-an said, "We at NEPSAC are thrilled to be able to partner with the Bay State Games and help afford NEPSAC student-athletes with additional opportunities to participate in a number of sports and event offerings. NEPSAC's principle purpose aligns seamlessly with the Bay State Games mission of 'promoting personal development, education, physical fitness, teamwork, and sportsmanship' and we at NEPSAC look forward to long and rewarding relationship."

Offering opportunities to compete in Bay State Summer and Winter Games events, Future Leaders Scholarship Program, High School Ambassador Program, and Sportsmanship Program as well as coaching opportunities for high school coaches is the goal of this partnership.

"Ensuring that all high school student-athletes in Massachusetts are aware of and have access to all Bay State Games programs is an important goal of our organization," said Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "These collaborations with the NEPSAC and MCSAO will help us achieve this goal and highlight the outstanding athletes, coaches, and administrators from both organizations."

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of on-line instruction. The association covers umpiring of scholastic baseball for all of Hampshire and Franklin county schools registered under MIAA and several other baseball leagues in the area. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilhunter@comcast.net.

Sign-ups now available for 2021 Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32 of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

How to submit legal notices

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to notices@turley.com. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Jamie Joslyn directly at 413-283-8393, ext. 216.

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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

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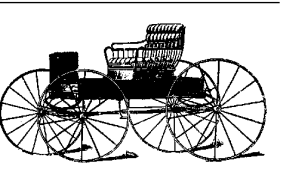
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Hampden Division
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Docket No. HD21P0211EA

Estate of:
JOSEPH L DUBUC
Date of Death:
December 27, 2020
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **KATHLEEN DUBUC-KING** of GALLATIN, TN a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

KATHLEEN DUBUC-KING of GALLATIN, TN has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate

Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 02/18/2021

AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet remotely, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, through Zoom

at **6:00 PM on Thursday, February 25, 2021**. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the application of Eversource Energy on a Request for Determination of Applicability for their Con Edison Gas Line Replacement Project located on Springfield Street.

Join Zoom webinar:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82818974792?pwd=ejg4bWx6ZlFOdUlxNXFZN0hIYVgwQT09>

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By Order of

Henry A. Kozloski,
Chairman
AGAWAM CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
02/18/2021

Commonwealth of
Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0202EA

Estate of:
Lois Beverly Peterson
Also Known As:
Lois B. Peterson
Date of Death:
December 10, 2020

INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Linda M. Lolos** of Feeding Hills, MA, a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Linda M. Lolos of Feeding Hills, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to

be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner. 02/18/2021

AGAWAM
CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
LEGAL AD

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a remote public hearing, due to the COVID19 restrictions, on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 6:15 PM online via Zoom. The purpose of this

hearing will be to hear the Notice of Intent Application of Sound Seal, Inc. for work to be performed at 50 H.P. Almgren Drive, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Interested parties can contact the Conservation Commission at pkerr@agawam.ma.us for more information, to provide written comments prior to the meeting or attend via the following:

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Tribute show goes virtual at Mt. Holyoke

SOUTH HADLEY – The Jazz Ensembles of Mount Holyoke College present the 16th edition of The Big Broadcast! on Saturday, March 6 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., in a free streaming version of what would have appeared on the stage of Chapin Auditorium on the Mount Holyoke College campus in South Hadley. Now titled The (Little) Big Broadcast, it's a one-hour tribute to the 1940's radio show, created by and directed by Mark Gionfriddo, featuring the Mount Holyoke College Big Band, Vocal Jazz, and Chamber Jazz Ensembles performing well-known tunes from the swing era and the American songbook. WWLP-TV meteorologist Brian Lapis is emcee "Fred Kelley" for his 14th consecutive season.

Mount Holyoke College music faculty member Mark Gionfriddo originally created The Big Broadcast! for a small cabaret group he directed, and incorporated it into the concert season at Mount Holyoke College. It has since been designated as a Signature Event at the college.

The (Little) Big Broadcast!, according to Gionfriddo, is reconfigured for challenging times. "We've got a series of songs from the golden age of radio, along with some radio commercials of the day. We're featuring the Glenn Miller version of "Little Brown Jug", two Cole Porter hits--"You Do Something To Me" and "Night and Day"; Bobby Troup's "Route 66" as performed by Bing Crosby & The Andrews Sisters; "My Funny Valentine" from Rodgers and Hart's Babes in Arms, and "Star Eyes", a tune made famous by Helen O'Connell and Jimmy Dorsey.

Mark Gionfriddo, creator and director (and "Matt Morgan") of The (Little) Big Broadcast! is well-known to area concertgoers as a piano soloist, coach/accompanist, composer/arranger, conductor and music director. A versatile musician, Mark's knowledge of diverse repertoire includes classical, jazz, rock, and popular music. Mark has been based at Mount Holyoke College since 1986 where he is Coordinator of Piano Studies for the Department of Music as well as Director and Founder of the Jazz Ensembles. In addition, Mark is Catholic Music Director and conducts the Abbey Chapel Singers for the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life.

In 2000, Mark accompanied Garrison Keillor on the Chapin Auditorium stage in a New England Public Radio benefit show, and he conducted the MHC Big Band in 2006 during two episodes of the popular NPR public radio quiz show "Says You!" During the summer, Mark was resident music director for Berkshire Theatre Group for their productions of Peter Pan, Seussical the Musical, Mary Poppins, Beauty and The Beast, A Christmas Carol, The Music Man, Tarzan, Shrek the Musical, and the Neil Ellenoff Musical Mondays series. Mark's production of A Class Act also appeared off-Broadway at the Robert Moss Theatre.

Mark has recently reunited with the internationally renowned Young@Heart Chorus as pianist and arranger, a post he originally held from 1992-1998. He is also co-author of Good Night, Dear Hart, Good Night, a book about Holyoke's Hart-Lester H. Allen and the Ponzi scandal, on the Epigraph imprint.

Brian Lapis ("Fred Kelley") joined the 22News Storm Team in 1996. He got his start in broadcasting at the age of 15 at radio station WILL, in his hometown of Willimantic, CT. He's worked as a radio on-air talent for stations in Hartford, CT; Philadelphia, PA; Syracuse, NY; and Providence, RI. Brian has a Bachelor's degree in Television Radio Film Management from Syracuse University. In addition, he holds a certificate in Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. This is his 14th season as WJAZ announcer and emcee "Fred Kelley". In 2013, the National Weather Association named Brian "Broadcaster of the Year".

Brian loves performing as "Fred Kelley". "The combination of the opportunity for me to perform, the creative energy of the students and Mark Gionfriddo, and the great music makes this far and away my favorite event of the year," he said. "As a 'student of broadcasting', I am one who appreciates the Golden Age of Radio and just how hugely popular these variety shows were in their day. I'd like to believe that if I were around back in the 1940s, I would have a gig like Fred Kelley's."

Performance sponsors confirmed to date of The (Little) Big Broadcast! are:



There will be a presentation of "The (Little) Big Broadcast" next month. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Mount Holyoke College, and WWLP-22News & The CW Springfield.

Tickets are free for both streamings of The (Little) Big Broadcast!. Advance reservations are required.

For tickets to the 2 p.m. performance:

https://events.mtholyoke.edu/event/the_little_big_broadcast_967#.YCK8fc2ZNQI

For tickets to the 7:30 p.m. performance:

https://events.mtholyoke.edu/event/the_little_big_broadcast#.YCK50S2ZNQI

Holyoke Medical Center seeks blood and plasma donors

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Medical Center is actively seeking blood and convalescent plasma donors. The center's Blood Bank depends on area residents, their friends and neighbors to help meet the transfusion needs of the local community.

"The demand for convalescent plasma is higher than the supply that has been donated throughout the region. People who have recovered from COVID-19 are encouraged to make a donation and help save the lives of up to two people in our community," said Jon Gronbach, director of laboratory services at Holyoke Medical Center.

Convalescent plasma is a liquid component of blood from patients who have recovered from COVID-19. Patients who have recovered from the disease have antibodies to protect themselves to fight the virus. By making a blood and convalescent plasma donation, recovered pa-

tients can help others fight COVID-19 as well.

Blood and convalescent plasma supplies continue to be low and shortages persist in all categories. Emergency supplies from the Red Cross are often limited. More than 75 percent of the blood and convalescent plasma needed by patients at the medical center comes from people living in Holyoke, Chicopee, South Hadley and the surrounding communities.

All eligible donors will receive a free recognition gift for their donation, and eligible convalescent plasma donors will receive a free COVID IgG test.

The Blood Bank, located on the first floor of Holyoke Medical Center, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Appointments are required.

For further information or to schedule an appointment, call the HMC Blood Bank at 413-534-2591.

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